

him, I think, is definitely necessary. The Lincoln memorial was very fascinating.

In conclusion, my appreciation for my American heritage has increased after going to Washington, DC. The World War II, Vietnam War, and Lincoln memorial are very interesting.

DC ESSAY

(By Kayla Kirkland)

Seeing Washington, DC isn't just understanding and appreciating our heritage, it also makes you proud. My conclusion of this is thanks to being able to go inside the Capitol building, seeing the memorials of our heroes, and going through the Holocaust Museum.

Being able to go into the Capitol building is more than words. I did not fully understand how much our government is ran by the people until we were able to go in there. Meeting John Duncan was an honor. It was neat how he would take time out of his day to meet the people he represents. The input we have is real, it is seeing our future and past evolve together.

Next, walking through our heroes memorials was inspirational. I saw that people died fighting and making this country free. My personal favorite was the World War II Memorial. The stars in the water were in awe. Every star was for one hundred souls and human beings that defend our land to insure our future.

Third of all, two words . . . Holocaust Museum. People do not understand how good Americans have it. We could be in a government with a dictator whom murders millions of innocent people. We are not though. This is because our founding fathers did not want that, and some of them died to insure us "We Are America." We, our Country, has it more than better compared to other countries.

I give thanks of being able to go inside the capitol building, see the memorials of our heroes, and go through the Holocaust Museum. ". . . And so my fellow Americans, Ask what your country can do for you; Ask what you can do for your country."

DC ESSAY

(By Michaela Hearn)

My trip to Washington DC has increased my appreciation of my American heritage because of the monuments, the American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery.

First, the monuments made me appreciate living in America. They recognize all the people that served in the different wars and some of our past presidents. The two monuments that really touched me were the Vietnam Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. The Vietnam Memorial was very sad seeing all the names of the people who had died. I personally can't imagine losing one of my loved ones in a war. The Korean War Memorial showed the emotions of the men in that war. They did a great job making both of these memorials; I will never forget them.

Secondly, the American History Museum made me appreciate my American heritage. This museum showed all kinds of things that have happened in America. I loved seeing the section about the different wars, the section of all our presidents, and the first ladies dresses. The section of the wars showed some cool objects from the wars, my favorite was seeing all the original guns and swords. The President section had facts about all of our presidents, my favorite president is Ronald Reagan. The first ladies dresses were beautiful and I like how they have those their so the public can see them. I enjoyed the American History Museum; it made me appreciate my American heritage.

Thirdly, The Arlington National Cemetery made me thankful for all of the men and

women that gave their lives in the wars. There are so many people that are buried there that gave their lives for Americas freedoms. That makes me thankful for them to have enough courage to fight for what they believe in. We Americans are so blessed to live in the greatest country in the world. So, we need to remember the ones that gave their lives, and the ones that have served and are still serving. The Arlington National Cemetery made me thankful for all the ones that have and are still serving in the wars.

In Conclusion, my trip to Washington DC has increased my appreciation of my American heritage because of the monuments, the American History Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery. I am so blessed and proud to live in the United States of America.

#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 702 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), headquartered in West Frankfort, Illinois.

In 1911, the labor movement in the United States was in a period of rapid growth. Our economy was beginning its shift from agriculture to manufacturing and more of the population was becoming concentrated in metropolitan areas. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, in 1911, tragically exposed unsafe working conditions and provided fuel for the rise of organized labor. Also in 1911, a small group of electrical workers near Herrin, Illinois, petitioned the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for a charter.

The founders of Local 702 wanted the pay and working conditions of those in the electrical trade to be commensurate with those of other skilled craftsmen and they knew the only way to accomplish this was to organize. They quickly began the task of working with area utility companies, and the first recorded bargaining contract was dated January 31, 1917, with the Central Illinois Public Service Company.

During the Great Depression, as our Nation struggled with record levels of unemployment, many members of Local 702 were out of work for prolonged periods. In a display of solidarity, the working members of Local 702 accepted an assessment on their wages that provided relief funding for their unemployed brothers. Loans from Local 702 provided a critical lifeline during the 1930's and some are still being retired today.

IBEW Local 702 considers itself to be a progressive, active local. From its founding as a bargaining unit for electrical workers, Local 702 has expanded to represent workers in many different fields, including manufacturing, instrument technicians, broadcast engineers, and nursing. While the primary focus of the local is the representation of its members, they are also vested in being a positive influence within their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members

of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them continued success in the future.

#### HONORING THE PELICAN CHAPTER OF ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, located in the City of Baton Rouge in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors has voluntarily constructed two new restroom facilities for the Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America to celebrate 100 Years of Scouting.

The facilities were constructed at the Avondale Scout Retreat in Clinton, La. to help improve the experiences of the 11,000 plus youths served by the Istrouma Area Council each year. Under the direction of leading contractor, The Lemoine Company, numerous volunteers from their company and other members of the ABC, the Pelican Chapter has dedicated countless hours and numerous resources to building these facilities, which were completed in October. Each facility encompasses over 1,550 sq. ft. and features modern appliances, providing a critical improvement to the comfort and convenience offered to campers.

The Istrouma Area Council is the largest Boy Scout Council in the state of Louisiana, serving a 13 Parish area and providing nearly \$2 million of free services to the community. By providing leadership training and advancement programs, the Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America has helped build the future leaders of this nation for nearly a century, and continues to serve the state of Louisiana. I can only hope that these new facilities that were made possible by the generosity of the ABC Pelican Chapter will allow the Istrouma Area Council to continue their legacy of stewardship for another 100 successful years.

#### LINDA LOPEZ CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and hard work of Ms. Linda Lopez of Merced, California. Not only is Ms. Lopez a treasured member of my staff, she is a tireless advocate and community leader in the 18th Congressional District.

Born in New Mexico, Linda moved to California's Central Valley in 1955 where she attended public school in Madera and then later college at Stanford University. She has been involved in civil rights and social justice work for over 40 years and is considered among the influential Latinos in the Central Valley.